

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STOCKH 00375 01 OF 02 301303Z POSS DUPE
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-12 IO-13 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02
DOE-11 /117 W
-----088320 301736Z /43

R 301148Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2877
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 0375

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ENRG, TECH, SW
SUBJECT: COALITION PLAGUED BY DIFFERENCES ON NUCLEAR ENERGY

REF: STOCKHOLM A-08 (NOTAL)

1. THE EMERGENCE OF SEVERAL CRUCIAL DEADLINES FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY POLICY DECISIONS OVER THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS HAS AGAIN POINTED UP THE FALLDIN GOVERNMENT'S SINGULAR FAILURE THUS FAR--THE INABILITY TO RECONCILE SHARP DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE COALITION ON THE FUTURE ROLE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY IN SWEDEN-- AND POSES A NEW CHALLENGE TO GOVERNMENT STABILITY. THE DEEP DIVISIONS BETWEEN FALLDIN'S ANTI-NUCLEAR CENTER PARTY AND THE PRO-NUCLEAR MODERATE AND LIBERAL PARTIES, DESPITE ENDLESS ROUNDS OF NEGOTIATION, CONTINUE WITH NO GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE YET IN SIGHT. THE RELEASE ON JANUARY 13 OF THE PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS OF THE ROYAL ENERGY COMMISSION (REFAIR), RECOMMENDING 12 OR 13 REACTORS, HAS CONFIRMED THE VIRTUAL ISOLATION OF THE CENTER PARTY ON THE ISSUE AND HAS LED TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STOCKH 00375 01 OF 02 301303Z POSS DUPE

SPECULATION AS TO HOW FALLDIN WILL APPROACH SPECIFIC DECISIONS REQUIRING GOVERNMENT UNITY, BEGINNING THIS WEEK WITH A DECISION ON THE FUTURE OF SWEDEN'S ELEVENTH NUCLEAR REACTOR (FORSMARK III).

2. PUSHED TO THE WALL BY THE STEADFAST REFUSAL OF THE MODERATES AND LIBERALS TO ACCEPT ITS DEMANDS FOR A

NUCLEAR "PARENTHESIS," THE CENTER PARTY IS CURRENTLY IN THE THROES OF INTERNAL CONFUSION (IF NOT DISSENSION), NOT KNOWING WHICH COURSE THE SILENT FALLDIN WILL CHOOSE. TO PRESERVE THE GOVERNMENT AND PERMIT ATTENTION AND EFFORT TO FOCUS ON THE COUNTRY'S SERIOUS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, FALLDIN, DESPITE ALL PROMISES AND COMMITMENTS TO THE CONTRARY, MAY WANT TO AGREE TO THE COMPLETION OF REACTORS SEVEN THROUGH TEN AND, IN ADDITION, AUTHORIZE PARTIAL FUNDS TO PERMIT CONSTRUCTION WORK AND EQUIPMENT ORDERS TO GO FORWARD FOR FORSMARK III, THE COUNTRY'S ELEVENTH REACTOR. THIS COURSE IS DEMANDED NOT ONLY BY THE MODERATES AND LIBERALS, BUT BY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY AND THE TRADE UNIONS AS WELL. RECENT STATEMENTS FROM CENTER PARTY LEADERS, SUCH AS PARTY SECRETARY ALLAN PETERSSON, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE DAHLGREN AND MINISTER OF ENERGY JOHANSSON, ON THE OTHER HAND, INSIST FORSMARK III IS NOT NEEDED, THAT THE PARTY HAS ALREADY GONE VERY FAR TO ACCOMMODATE ITS COALITION PARTNERS AND MUST DRAW THE LINE WITH FORSMARK III. TO THOSE WHO POINT TO THE POSSIBLE DISSOLUTION OF THE COALITION THROUGH NEW ELECTIONS OR A REFERENDUM UNFAVORABLE TO THE CENTER PARTY POSITION, MOST CENTER PARTY LEADERS (FALLDIN NOT INCLUDED) HINT THAT THEY WOULD RATHER BE TRUE TO PRINCIPLE THAN GOVERN, IF THE CRISIS COMES TO THAT. SUCH HINTS MAY WELL BE MORE TACTICAL IN NATURE THAN SINCERE, BUT THERE ARE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STOCKH 00375 01 OF 02 301303Z POSS DUPE

THOSE, RECALLING CENTER PARTY PROMISES TO PHASE OUT NUCLEAR ENERGY BY 1985, WHO ACCEPT THEM AT FACE VALUE AS THE WORDS OF FRUSTRATED, FED UP MEN. THE GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE MUST PRESENT BY MARCH 10 A PROPOSAL TO THE RIKSDAG ON HOW THE FORSMARK III ISSUE IS TO BE RESOLVED, AND THERE IS SPECULATION THAT FALLDIN MAY EVEN RELEASE COALITION MPS TO VOTE THEIR CONSCIENCE. SHOULD THAT OCCUR, MOST BELIEVE FALLDIN AND THE CENTER PARTY WILL SUFFER A CRUSHING DEFEAT WHICH COULD LEAD EASILY TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S RESIGNATION. JOHANSSON HAS INTIMATED THAT A GOVERNMENT DECISION ON FORSMARK III COULD COME AS EARLY AS FEBRUARY 3. MEANWHILE, A LID OF SILENCE HAS BEEN PLACED ON ALL GOVERNMENT CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUE.

3. ANOTHER FUNDAMENTAL DECISION FACING THE COALITION CONCERNS THE CHARGING OF THE RINGHALS III REACTOR, THE COUNTRY'S SEVENTH PLANT SCHEDULED FOR EARLY JUNE. THE CASE HAS PARTICULAR INTEREST BECAUSE RINGHALS III WILL BE THE FIRST PLANT REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH STIPULATIONS LAID DOWN BY THE CONDITIONS ACT OF MAY 1977. THE OPERATORS MUST SATISFY THE GOVERNMENT THAT THEIR ARRANGEMENTS FOR REPROCESSING OR FOR THE PERMANENT

STORAGE OF UNREPROCESSED SPENT FUEL ARE "SAFE."
PRESUMABLY, IF RINGHALS III CAN SO DEMONSTRATE, THERE
WOULD BE LITTLE PROBLEM IN AUTHORIZING THE EIGHTH,
NINTH AND TENTH REACTORS WHEN COMPLETED. NOT TO ACCEPT
THE SAFEGUARD ARRANGEMENTS WOULD MEAN, IN EFFECT, THAT
BILLIONS OF CROWNS HAVE BEEN EXPENDED TO BUILD IDLE
MOMUMENTS (ALTHOUGH SOME TALK OF THEIR CONVERSION TO
COAL-BURNING PLANTS). THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF
THE PROPOSED SAFEGUARDS FOR RINGHALS III, HOWEVER,
WOULD HAVE A CERTAIN IRONY IN THAT THE FALLDIN GOVERNMENT,
ELECTED TO LEAD SWEDEN OUT OF THE NUCLEAR SOCIETY, WOULD
BE THE FIRST IN THE WORLD REPORTEDLY TO CERTIFY, THROUGH
THE CONDITIONS LAW, THAT CERTAIN SPENT FUEL ARRANGEMENTS
ARE ABSOLUTELY SAFE. THIS BITTER REALITY IS NOT LOST ON
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STOCKH 00375 01 OF 02 301303Z POSS DUPE

CENTER PARTY MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY THE YOUTH MOVEMENT,
AND EXPLAINS TO A LARGE EXTENT FALLDIN'S EXCRUCIATINGLY
CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO ALL NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STOCKH 00375 02 OF 02 301615Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-12 IO-13 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02
DOE-11 /117 W

-----089642 301736Z /43

R 301148Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2878
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 0375

4. COMMENT: THE FALLDIN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN WRACKED SINCE
THE DAY OF ITS FORMATION WITH THE DIFFICULTIES INHERENT

IN TRANSFORMING THREE SEPARATE PARTY PROGRAMS INTO
AGREED-UPON GOVERNMENT POLICIES. BUT THE COUNTDOWN
ON ENERGY POLICY DEADLINES HAS BEGUN IN EARNEST AND
ALL PREVIOUS INTRA-COALITION PROBLEMS MAY BE VIEWED AS
MINOR IN COMPARISON. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT RULE OUT
COMPLETELY SOME MODERATE-LIBERAL EFFORT TOWARD COMPROMISE,
PARTICULARLY ON FORSMARK III, BUT WITH THE WEIGHT OF
THE ENERGY COMMISSION CONCLUSIONS BEHIND THEM, COMPROMISE
MAY NOT BE UPPERMOST IN THEIR PLANS. FALLDIN'S CHOICE
WOULD SEEM TO LIE BETWEEN EATING CROW BY GOING ALONG WITH
REACTORS SEVEN THROUGH TEN AND FORMARK III OR BRINGING
THE COALITION TO THE POINT OF DISSOLUTION. TO INSIST ON
PRINCIPLE WOULD MAKE HIM A HERO IN HIS OWN PARTY AND WITH
OTHER NUCLEAR OPPONENTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. IF THE
DECISION BROUGHT THE GOVERNMENT DOWN, IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN
THAT HE WOULD NEVER BE ASKED TO LEAD ANOTHER NON-SOCIALIST
COALITION. HE ALSO REALIZES THAT WHATEVER GOVERNMENT REPLACED
HIS IT WOULD MOST CERTAINLY OPT FOR A FULL NUCLEAR ENERGY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STOCKH 00375 02 OF 02 301615Z

COMPLEX. THE ENIGMATIC FALLDIN, THEREFORE, IS SURELY
FACING WHAT ARE TO HIM UNWHOLESOME ALTERNATIVES AND HIS
LACK OF DECISION SO FAR IS REFLECTED IN THE SCANT INFORMATION
AVAILABLE TO OUTSIDERS. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY
BELIEVES FALLDIN WILL CHOOSE TO EAT CROW AND HOPE THAT HIS
ANTI-NUCLEAR FOLLOWERS, EVENTUALLY, WILL UNDERSTAND WHY.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR ENERGY, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STOCKH00375
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780044-0551
Format: TEL
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978016/aaaaafcx.tel
Line Count: 201
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 129463e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STOCKHOLM A-8
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3769788
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COALITION PLAGUED BY DIFFERENCES ON NUCLEAR ENERGY
TAGS: PINT, ENRG, TECH, SW
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/129463e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014